

## Galleywood Infant School

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is primarily a newsletter rather than a notification, and I have tried to make it follow our usual format despite very difficult times.

Thank you so much for your amazing patience, help and support as we have received and responded to pieces of advice from the Department for Education this week. We really appreciate the many, many lovely comments from parents about how well Galleywood staff have kept the school calm and as normal as possible for children. We do have a brilliant staff team - I would like to thank them all for undertaking so much work over and above their duties.



On Wednesday evening the Prime Minister announced that schools in England are to shut from this afternoon until further notice to assist in the fight against Coronavirus and in the interests of public health.

If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. The fewer children making journeys to school, and the fewer children in education settings, the lower the risk that the virus can infect vulnerable people in our communities.

The government has given clear guidance on [self-isolation](#), [household isolation](#) and [social distancing](#). Please use these links to access up to date information.

Many parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response may be able to care for children safely at home, and we are asking them to do so.

School will be open for a small number of children as long as we can maintain the appropriate pupil: staff ratios. The great majority of children should not be in school.

Teachers have provided packs of work to send home today, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. If you are unable to collect the pack today it will remain in school for collection, or you can nominate a friend to pick it up for you.

There are two more weeks of the spring term and children will be expected to continue their education during the closure period. Please try to keep to a routine at home to ensure children are accessing their learning, both online and paper based, on a daily basis.

We cannot know when our school will re-open. Teachers will continue to work both in school and at home, and are already working on ideas for home activities for the last week of term, 30<sup>th</sup> March.

We are hoping to establish a video link or conference call platform that will enable teachers to keep in touch with their classes each week. Detail to follow once we determine the best approach for this. Thank you for your suggestions and ideas around this aspect.

We want to hear about the work the children are doing with you at home, and also to respond to questions from individual parents. This can be via Tapestry for children in Foundation Stage and Year One, or using the teachers' school email addresses, which will be sent to you via email.

## In Other News

At the end of this term we say goodbye to Mrs Teale and Miss Ottman, who are both moving to new roles. Mrs Teale is a midday assistant and a teaching assistant working 1:1, moving to a similar role in the school her son attends. Miss Ottman is a Midday assistant and a trained nursery nurse; she will be moving to work at Jubilee Friends pre-school. We wish them both the very best in their new roles and thank them for all they have done for children and families at Galleywood.

This week we welcomed Miss Gray to our Midday team; another appointment is in progress.



Thank you for supporting our promotions to collect tokens from The Sun newspaper and stickers from Aldi supermarkets. We were delighted to receive a huge box of books, from the Sun, including reference books and story books. Two large bags of sports equipment arrived from Aldi, with equipment for children to use at playtimes and in PE lessons.

Thank you to everyone who supported GIPAs Bingo night on Friday, and to Jo's friend Louise, who was our caller for the night. We had lots of fun and the event raised over £500 for our library.



Sadly, our Easter Egg hunt will not go ahead on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April. GIPA have very kindly donated the Easter eggs purchased for this event so that each child can take one home.

Thank you for your fantastic response to our Readathon during Book Week- so far we have collected £734.50 to buy new books for our library. Please keep collecting coins for your Smartie tubes- we have received them from lots of families and will announce a running total as more arrive!



GIPA had so many plans for events and activities in the summer term and these will unfortunately be on hold. Please keep using your Co-op Community Cards and logging on to Easyfundraising when you are shopping online. To coin a famous phrase, "every little helps!"

There will be update emails from us over the next few very difficult weeks. We wish all our families the very best, hoping that you stay well and manage to avoid the virus.

### ST MICHAEL'S



### GALLEYWOOD

Today Rev David Cattle led an assembly focusing on the strength of our community and ways for us all to be kind to others. Children will bring home the palm crosses they would have received during our Easter service at St Michael's Church. We are grateful to the church community for providing these- thank you.

At present there is lots of advice around social distancing, but we are lucky in Galleywood to have fields, footpaths, parkland and a beautiful Galleywood Common for walks and exercise out of doors. We hope you will take the opportunity to look for signs of spring, to enjoy some spring sunshine, to walk and play out of doors whilst guidance allows us to do so.

